

Quick Facts about National History Day in Iowa



www.NationalHistoryDay.org

What is National History Day?

National History Day is a year-long educational enrichment program devoted to improving the teaching and learning of history in the schools. NHD students complete in-depth research projects on a subject of their choice related to an annual theme. Working individually or collaboratively, they create exhibit displays, documentaries, dramatic performances, or historical papers that explain their topic's significance in history.

Evaluation emphasizes the use of primary sources and in-depth research, as well as the ability to draw conclusions and analyze information. NHD presents an innovative way to reach national education standards, multiple learning styles, and authentic assessment goals. *It's not just a day . . . it's an experience.*



How does the program work in Iowa?

Since 1994, National History Day in Iowa has been the foremost youth educational outreach program offered by the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI). The SHSI acts as the state coordinating agency for History Day activities in Iowa. The state coordinator works with teachers and students through workshops and one-on-one assistance designed to improve research and historical analysis skills. SHSI also organizes and hosts the state events in Des Moines, coordinates the Iowa delegation's activities at National History Day in Maryland, and works with district coordinators and partner institutions.

Who sponsors the Iowa program?

The State Historical Society of Iowa, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, contributes significant in-kind value to the Iowa program, but operating expenses for the NHD in Iowa program are grant-funded. The primary sponsor for NHD in Iowa is a private Iowa City foundation, the State Historical Society, Inc. NHD in Iowa also receives support from the American Legion of Iowa Foundation, the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs, and through contest revenues.

Who does the program serve?

NHD is primarily a program serving students in grades 6-12 who may choose to take their classroom projects to contest. The Iowa program also offers a special, non-competitive version of the program to students in grades 4-5. In all, NHD in Iowa reaches about 3,800 students and approximately 200 teachers each year.

How does the contest work in Iowa?

One of the top motivators for students creating a NHD project is the competitive nature of the program. Students who choose to do so may enter their project in a progressive series of district, state, and national events. Iowa has 15 NHD districts which are organized along AEA lines. District programs are coordinated by staff at universities, AEAs, or historical societies.

District Events
Youth and Junior Division State Events
Senior Division State Event
National History Day, College Park, MD

March
April 28, 2003
May 5, 2003
June 15-19, 2003

